

DPD 3310-62

23 May 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting with [] 22 May, Regarding State Department
Position Paper

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1. [] and the undersigned met in []

[] office on 22 May 1962 to review and formulate comments on the State Department position paper and instructions to United States delegates attending the May 28 Geneva meetings of the Legal Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

2. It was concluded that this paper, generally, was sound and the positions, as stated, if adhered to, would pose no threat or embarrassment to continuation of United States satellite reconnaissance activities. However, two possible vulnerabilities were noted in the position paper which it was felt required additional caveats so that there would be no misunderstanding on the part of the United States delegation, particularly those who are operationally cleared:

a. There is no provision in the working paper (Tab E) pertaining to the USSR Proposal to Ban Military Reconnaissance Satellites for a U. S. position in the event the Soviets are adamant about such a resolution and make its adoption a pre-condition to any further discussions. It was agreed that the U. S. position in this contingency, at least from the CIA standpoint, should be one of no compromise, even if this should lead to a break-off of the discussions. At the very least, it was concluded that if such an impasse were to occur, the U. S. position would be maintained and any resulting inter-departmental disagreements in Washington would probably have to be referred to the President for decision.

b. It was concluded that the operationally cleared delegates should be cautioned that the working paper on satellite reconnaissance, which argues that such activities are legal and non-aggressive in nature, should not under any circumstances be interpreted as permission to acknowledge or even suggest that any

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operations of this character are currently in progress. All references to satellite reconnaissance should be expressed in a manner which would suggest that the United States is thinking only in terms of the future.

3. These views were subsequently made known by [redacted] to Mr. Howard Furnas of the State Department, a delegate to the Geneva meetings. He indicated that he was generally in agreement with these conclusions. It is also proposed that these views should be expressed to Ambassador Plimpton and Mr. Leonard Meeker of the State Department prior to their departure for Geneva. We will have an opportunity to do this on 23 May at the NPIC briefing for Ambassador Stevenson.

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